
Name of Organization: Penn Soil RC&D

Type of Organization: Other

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Project Title: Reestablishing Riparian Corridors

Project Category: Habitat Protection and Restoration

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$) 93,500.00 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

One of the major agricultural enterprises within the drainage basin is dairying. Stream watering for livestock is an age old practice. This direct access provides the opportunities for cattle to directly pollute the streams and destroy the ecosystems along the streams and tributaries to Lake Erie. Moving cattle and livestock away from streams will provide the opportunities to restore and protect the habitats along the riparian corridors within the Lake Erie basin.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |

Lakes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Presque Isle Bay, PA

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Presque Isle

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

Approximately 20 percent of Pennsylvania's rare and endangered plant species occur in the Lake Erie watershed. Access of cattle to the streams and tributaries destroys the unique habitat within the streambed and the vegetation along the banks. As a result, many plants indigenous to the Lake Erie watershed have been adversely affected. The U.S. Forest Service has advocated planting riparian zones to trees. Although trees have their place, trees alone do not provide protection and biodiversity. We propose to utilize native plant species (both herbaceous and woody) to promote the restoration of ecosystems and rebuilding the habitat within the riparian corridors of the Lake Erie watershed. A significant number of tributaries within the Pennsylvania portion of the Lake Erie basin outlet within the Presque Isle BIA. These tributaries contain the major concentration of livestock agricultural enterprises. Thus, the concentration of activities for this project will be in those riparian corridors of the Presque Isle region.

Proposed Work Outcome:

The proposed project will involve utilizing indigenous plants to reestablish riparian corridors along the streams and tributaries to Lake Erie. Penn Soil would cooperate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and the Erie and Crawford Conservation Districts to carry out the program.

The outcome of this project is to restore currently and previously degraded ecosystems by planting native grass, shrub and tree species to create biodiversity within the riparian corridors of the Lake Erie watershed.

The program would be advertised through agency and conservation district newsletters, news media, Penn Soil personnel and by word of mouth. Individual contacts would be made with agricultural producers along the streams and tributaries to Lake Erie. Producers participating in other federal, state and local programs would be invited to become involved with this program on their riparian corridors. Sites of interested parties would be inventoried and a selection process would take place. We anticipate selecting approximately 10 participants and reestablishing approximately 50 acres of riparian corridors for this pilot program. Diverse habitat systems

would be planted based on soils, climate and suitable indigenous plants. Materials would be purchased including fencing, if needed. The corridors would be established by planting and excluding cattle. We anticipate that cattle would be grazed in pastures away from streams. This would result in the riparian areas being revegetated with a diversity of indigenous species. This will result in providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species including songbirds and waterfowl.

Project Milestones:	Dates:
Project Start	10/1998
Publicize program	11/1998
Site inventory and selection-1999 sites	12/1998
Plan & establish corridors-1999 sites	09/1999
Site inventory & evaluation-2000 sites	12/1999
Plan & reestablish corridors-2000 sites	08/2000
Evaluation of reestablished corridors	09/2000
Project End	09/2000

☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

This component is an integral part of the project. Landowners and the public will be informed by newsletters of ongoing activities. Field trips will be planned for site reviews both during and after the completion of the project. Evaluations of the results will be provided to interested individuals around the Great Lakes.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	1,200.00	0.00
Fringe:	400.00	0.00
Travel:	1,000.00	0.00
Equipment:	0.00	0.00
Supplies:	51,500.00	5,000.00
Contracts:	35,000.00	0.00
Construction:	0.00	0.00
Other:	0.00	0.00
Total Direct Costs:	89,100.00	5,000.00
Indirect Costs:	4,400.00	0.00
Total:	93,500.00	5,000.00
Projected Income:	0.00	0.00

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$ 5,000.00
Erie Conservation District - \$ 2,500.00
Crawford Conservation District - \$ 2,500.00
Penn Soil RC&D - \$ 7,500.00
Total - \$17,500.00

These are "in-kind" services provided by the major participants in the project and are not being listed within the budget. We are not aware of other funding sources being pursued for this project.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

Support for this project is pledged from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Erie and Crawford Conservation Districts. This program will complement the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which are all authorized in the Farm Bill. EPA Region III has invested over \$400,000 of Section 319 funds in the Lake Erie watershed within Pennsylvania. Each of the conservation districts have a nutrient management specialist on staff to address pesticide and sedimentation problems. Also, the French Creek project, partially funded by the Howard Heinz Endowment in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, is developing a program adjacent to the Lake Erie basin to establish riparian buffer areas using warm season grasses on agricultural lands. Penn Soil RC&D has been participating with the French Creek project in these efforts.